Export of sugar

*157. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed an agreement with Bangladesh to resume private sugar imports which has opened a new window for Indian sugar;

(b) whether Pakistan has also asked for Indian sugar;

(c) if so, what is the total export of sugar to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Brazil and Thailand; and

(d) to what extent more orders have been received?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) India has not signed any agreement with Bangladesh for resuming private sugar imports. However, Bangladesh banned private trade in sugar in March 2003 but has reopened it from August 2003.

(b) to (d) There is no quantitative restriction on export of sugar and is freely exportable by exporters/sugar mills as per their commercial prudence. As per the information received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata about 31173 M.T.s of sugar has been exported to Bangladesh, Pakistan and Thailand during the financial year 2003-2004 (upto July 2003). No sugar has been exported to Brazil during the said financial year.

Enhancement of teledensity

*158. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones sanctioned and working in each State, State-wise;

(b) the teledensity of each State; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Centre to enhance teledensity in each State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The number of telephones sanctioned and working in each State are set out in the Annexure.

(b) The teledensity of each State is also indicated in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) The measures being taken by the Government to enhance the teledensity include the following:—

(i) Continuous reforms in the Telecom Sector, including implementation of measures visualized in NTP-99, leading to liberalization and opening up of the sector for competition and fast growth of services with benefits of reduced and affordable tariffs to the customers.

(ii) Introduction of Unified Access Service Licence regime to provide flexibility to the service providers to make use of latest technologies in the most efficient manner for providing access to the subscriber at cheaper rates and to increase competition.

(iii) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) has been introduced for providing telephone connection in urban/semi urban and rural areas.

(iv) New technologies like WLL/CDMA (Code Division Multiplex Access) and GSM (Global System of Mobile Communication) have been introduced for faster roll out and enhancement of accessibility of customers.

(v) Setting up of USO Fund for improving rural access and teledensity.

Statement

State-wise status of working telephone connections and teledensity as on 31.10.2003

Sl. No.	States	Total number of telephones sanctioned and working as on 31.10.03	Tele-density overall
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	36963	9.88
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5356860	6.89
3.	Assam	540161	1.96
4.	Bihar	1406241	1.61
5.	Chhattisgarh	303596	1.41
6.	Gujarat	4930758	9.27
7.	Haryana	1611170	7.26
8.	Himachal Pradesh	591576	9.42
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	293820	2.76
10.	Jharkhand	455541	1.62
11.	Karnataka	4630117	8.50
12.	Kerala	4270106	13.14
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2314442	3.66
14.	Maharashtra	11504554	11.25
15.	North East	356757	2.85
16.	Orissa	1027467	2.71
17.	Punjab	3838999	14.67
18.	Rajasthan	2402324	4.04
19.	Tamil Nadu	6409172	9.93
20.	Uttar Pradesh	4555705	2.62
21.	Uttaranchal	360117	4.10
22.	West Bengal	3776420	4.50
23.	Delhi	5708515	38.32
	TOTAL	66681381	6.24 (All India).

NOTE: Gujarat includes the Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

Kerala includes the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Islands.

Maharashtra includes the State of Goa.

North East includes the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.

Punjab includes the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Tamil Nadu includes the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

West Bengal includes the State of Sikkim.

Disinvestment of PSUs

*159 SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning disinvestment of certain companies and PSUs which were formed with the Government funds but not acquired under or pursuant to a statutory enactment;

(b) if so, the details of such companies and PSUs and the status of its disinvestment as on date;

(c) the details of such PSUs which were created by Act of Parliament and wherein the disinvestment process is at present on; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take so that disinvestment of these PSUs goes unhindered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Annexed Statement lists *inter-alia* the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) being disinvested in which Government holds equity, but which were not created through an Act of Parliament. (*See* below) The list includes six subsidiaries of PSUs (Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., Braithwaite & Co., Burn Standard & Co., Tungabahadra Steel Products Ltd., Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. and ICVL, Palakad) and seven joint ventures (Hotel Neelanchal Ashok; Puri, Hotel Lakeview Ashok; Bhopal, Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi, Hotel Bramputra Ashok; Guwahati, Hotel Pondicherry Ashok; Pondicherry,